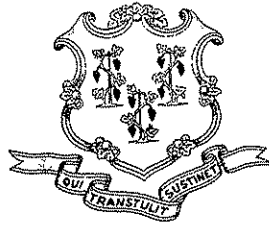


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State of Connecticut
SENATOR DONALD E. WILLIAMS, JR.
Twenty-ninth District
President Pro Tempore

Testimony

SB 576 AAC Patient Access to Laboratory Test Results

Public Health Committee

March 10, 2008

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers, and Members of the Committee:

Like it or not, we are moving to a model of increasing personal responsibility in the world of healthcare. Whether an individual has high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or suffers from diabetes, we expect that person to work with his or healthcare provider to control any diseases that he or she may have. We have moved to a model where patients "own" their medical record and are empowered like never before.

In Connecticut, a substantial barrier stands in their way. Patients are unable to obtain lab results that their provider has ordered, unless their provider specifically gives his or her permission. As anyone who has tried to get a provider on the phone knows, this is not an easy task. If we expect patients to manage their diseases, why should they not be able to access their own lab results?

SB 576, AAC Patient Access to Laboratory Test Results, would remedy this situation by allowing patients to access their laboratory results, unless their provider specifically states that they should not be able to do so. There may be some tests where it is important that the results be given in person. For example, if a provider is testing a patient for a lethal genetic disorder, it would be important to convey those results in a face-to-face setting. This legislation would preserve the ability of a provider to decide when such a setting is appropriate.

The information from the majority of laboratory tests, however, does not need to be kept secret from patients. This bill would be a step forward for patient empowerment.

Thank you very much.